manufacture of the distress signals were:

Date of Manufacture

1. Parachuit Rocket Signal — August 1981
2. Lifeboat Distress Rockets — February 1981
3. Lifeboat Flares — December 1984
4. Line Throwing Apparatus — September 1980

The Mercantile Marine Department, Tuticorin, while issuing the certificate recommended that these pyrotechnics be renewed at the earliest. However, this does not appear to have been done. Normally, these pyrotechnics are considered to be in good condition for a period of three years from the date fo manufacture. The matter is under investigation by the Metropolitan Magistrate.

It is confirmed that Maini Shipping Company had written to the relatives of the crew of M. V. Nitya Nanak that the vessel may have been delayed due to bad weather. This matter has also been the subject matter of investigation under Section 36C of Merchant Shipping Act.

Ban on recruitment in Railways

1799. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT bs pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have im posed a ban on recruitment in Rail ways in view of impending new phase of computerisation; and

Ob) if so, what is the net reduction of staff effected during 1975—85?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA), (a) No ban on recruitment due to impending computerisation has been imposed.

(b) Does not arise.

Accident of the Air India's Jumbo on Bangkok-Hongkong route

1800. SHRI KISHORE MEHTA;
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT;
SHRI SURESH KALMADI;
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA;

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that parts of an Air India jumbo jet fell into a field shortly after it took off from Bangkok for Hongkong' and the plane was grounded in Hongkong for r2-pairs;

(b) whether any enquiry has been ordered into the matter; and

(c) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): ; (a) Yes, Sir. Parts of the cowling of one engine fell off without causing any operational problem to the aircraft. The engine was replaced in Hongkong.

(b) and (c) The incident is under investigation.

Retrenchment of catfgo handling workers at Paradip Port

1801. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Chairman of Paradip Port 1st arbitrarily introduced mechanical system in coal loading in Paradip Port on the 8th October, 1985, which was being done by unlisted cargo-handling workers since long through C&F Agents Stevedores;

(b) whether the introduction of mechanical system has thrown out of job about 1550 unlisted cargo handling workers.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa advised the Chairman of the Paradeep Port